

REMARKS

Claims 23-45 were pending in this application.

Claims 23-45 have been rejected.

No claims have been amended.

Claims 23-45 remain pending in this application.

Reconsideration and full allowance of Claims 23-45 are respectfully requested.

I. REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Office Action rejects Claims 23, 25, 26, 28, 29, 33, 36, and 44 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,362,612 to Harris ("*Harris*") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,815,941 to Butler ("*Butler*"). The Office Action rejects Claims 24, 30, 31, 34, and 35 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Harris* and *Butler* in further view of U.S. Patent No. 5,867,013 to Yu ("*Yu*"). The Office Action rejects Claims 27, 32, and 37 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Harris* and *Butler* in further view of U.S. Patent No. 5,471,131 to King et al. ("*King*"). The Office Action rejects Claims 38-43 and 45 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Harris* and *Butler* in further view of U.S. Patent No. 6,362,605 to May ("*May*"). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

This patent application is a continuation of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/282,694, which was filed on October 29, 2002. *Butler* has a filing date of February 5, 2003. *Butler* does not appear to claim priority to any prior patent application. As a result, this patent application has a priority date that precedes the filing date of *Butler*, and *Butler* cannot be cited as prior art against this patent application.

All of the § 103 rejections rely on *Butler*, which cannot be cited as prior art against this patent application. For these reasons, the Office Action has not established a *prima facie* case of obviousness against Claims 23-45. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the § 103 rejection and full allowance of Claims 23-45.

II. CONCLUSION

The Applicants respectfully assert that all pending claims in this application are in condition for allowance and respectfully request full allowance of the claims.

SUMMARY


If any outstanding issues remain, or if the Examiner has any further suggestions for expediting allowance of this application, the Applicants respectfully invite the Examiner to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below or at *wmunck@davismunck.com*.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees connected with this communication (including any extension of time fees) or credit any overpayment to the Davis Munck Deposit Account No. 50-0208.

Respectfully submitted,

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